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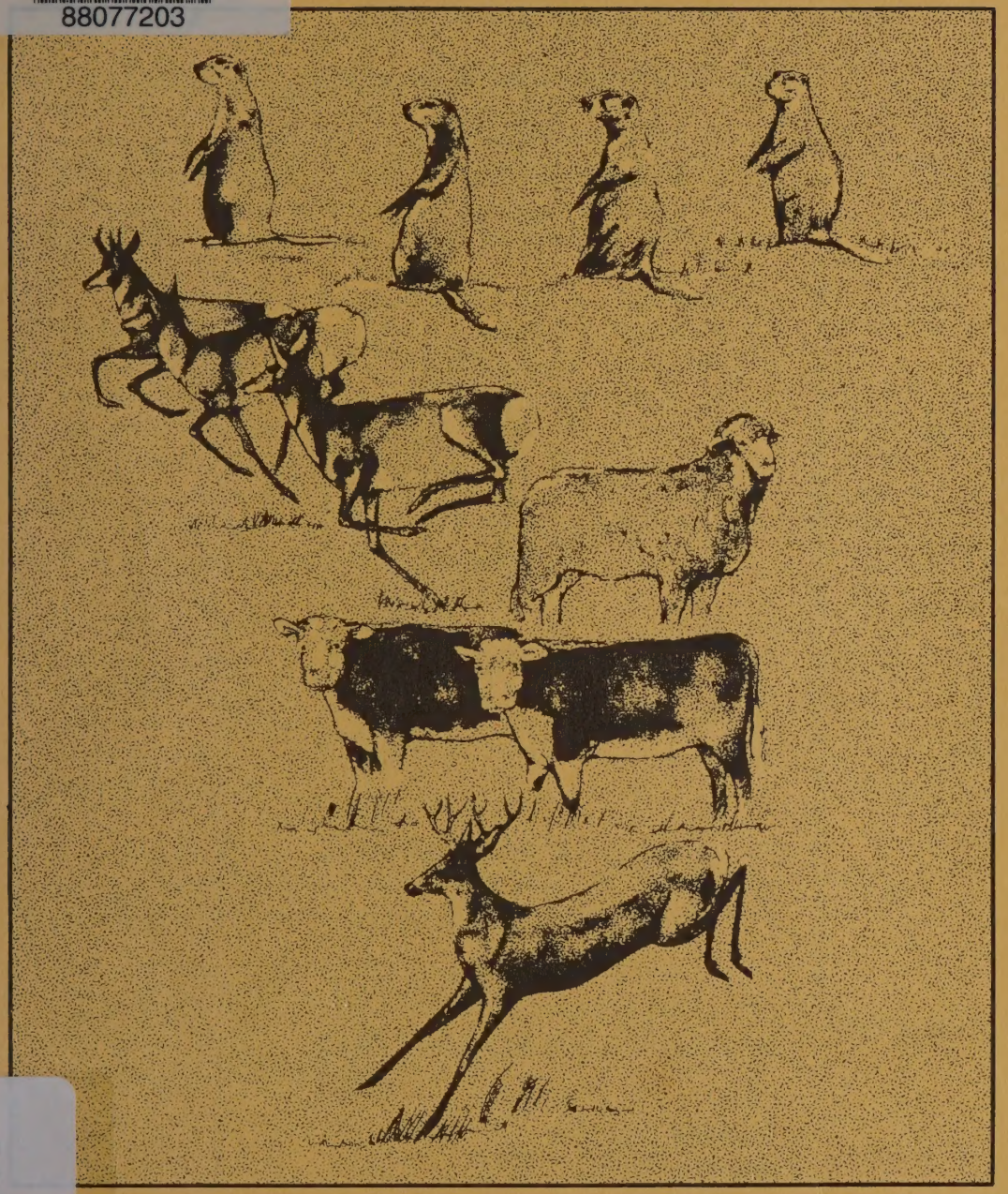

SUMMARY

MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS PARKER MOUNTAIN PLANNING UNIT

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
RICHFIELD DISTRICT
APRIL, 1980

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PARKER MOUNTAIN PLANNING UNIT LOCATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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A WORD FROM THE DISTRICT MANAGER

This brochure describes the Management Framework Plan (MFP) decisions for the Parker Mountain Planning Unit in Wayne and Garfield Counties, Utah. In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Bureau of Land Management prepares plans in an attempt to determine the best use and allocation of natural resources on our nation's public lands.

The planning system used by BLM for the Parker Mountain Planning Unit included an analysis of detailed resource inventories to describe existing situations and to determine opportunities for managing lands, minerals, recreation, forestry, wildlife habitat, watershed and livestock forage. Following the development of management recommendations for each use, a multiple use analysis of these recommendations provided me, as District Manager, with the necessary information to determine how the public lands in the planning unit can best be managed.

Public participation has been an important part of this planning process. In addition to individual contacts to gather information and data concerning future land use, BLM mailed information packets and held public meetings and briefings at Loa and Richfield, Utah throughout the planning effort to gain input and suggestions.

My staff and I are indebted to many organizations and individual citizens who provided time, data and their thoughts throughout the development of the Management Framework Plan.

The completed planning documents are available for review at the Richfield District Office. We look forward to working with you in the future to determine how the resources throughout our district can best be managed and used.

Donald L. Pendleton
District Manager
Richfield District

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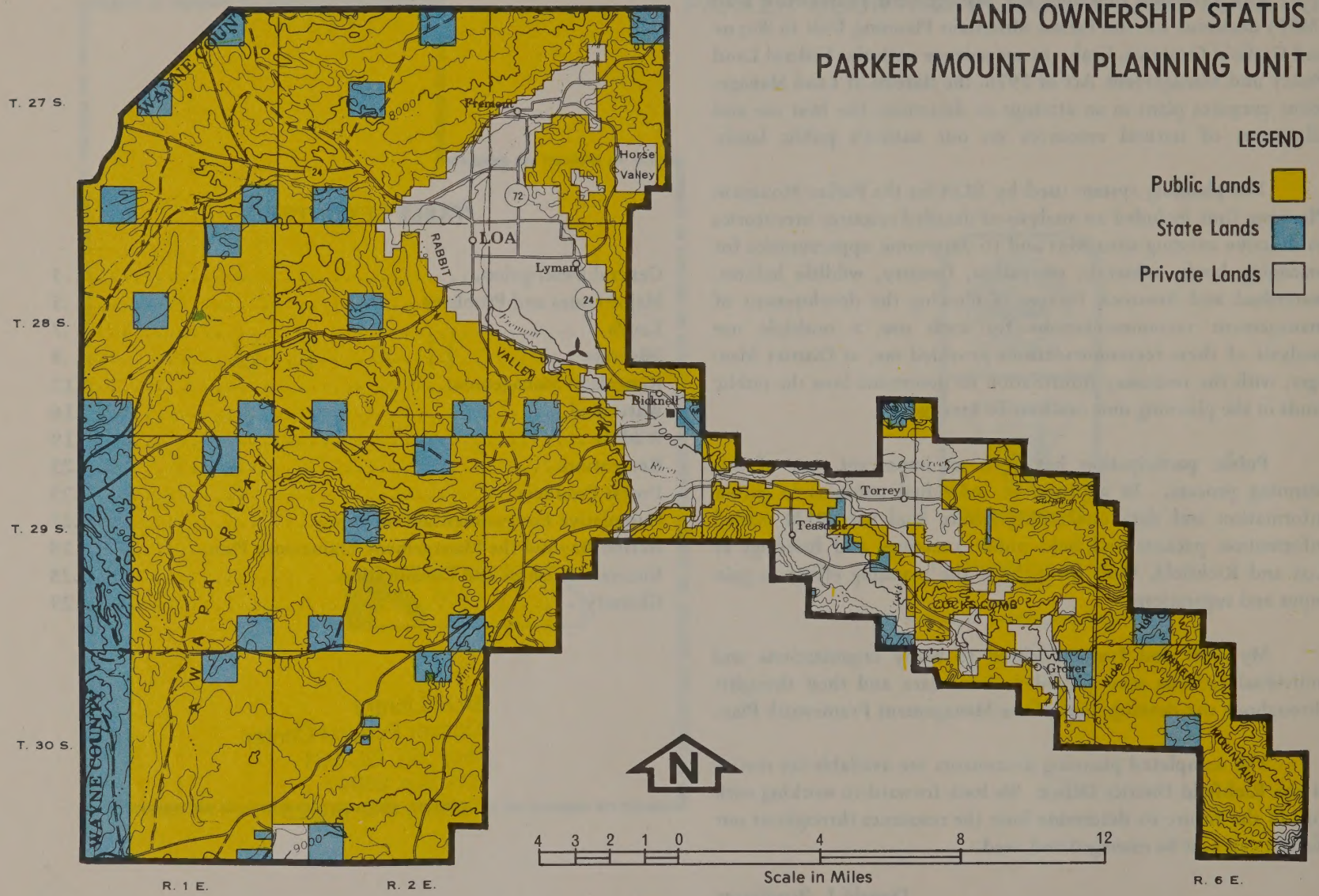
LAND OWNERSHIP STATUS
PARKER MOUNTAIN PLANNING UNIT



GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Parker Mountain Planning Unit is located about 35 miles southeast of Richfield, Utah. A small portion of the unit, approximately four percent, is located in Garfield County, with the remaining 96 percent in Wayne County.

Land ownership within the planning unit consists of 213,057 acres of federal land, 34,123 acres of State land and 40,437 acres of private land for a total of 287,617 acres.

The estimated population within the Parker Mountain Unit is 1,300 people. Bicknell, Loa and Torrey are classified as incorporated cities with a total population of more than 800. The remaining population is distributed on small farms and ranches and unincorporated areas located along the valley bottoms.

Agriculture and the government sector continue to be the primary source of income for the area. Supportive trade and service sectors are relatively small, comprised mostly of owner-operator proprietorships. Population levels are too small to generate trade and service centers capable of providing a full array of services.

The major topographic features located within the unit include the Awapa Plateau, Rabbit Valley, and Miner's Mountain. The Awapa Plateau rises abruptly to an elevation of 9,600 feet on its western edge and slopes gently to the east where it blends into Rabbit Valley. The plateau is underlain by volcanic rock covered by cold desert vegetation. Rabbit Valley is a broad alluvial flood plain that comprises the central portion of the unit. Miner's Mountain, lying on the eastern edge of the unit, rises to an elevation of 7,800 feet and consists of gently to steeply dipping rocks which form numerous hogbacks and escarpments.

MAJOR ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

The Parker Mountain Planning Unit offers various resource use opportunities, but the major issue involved forage allocation for domestic livestock and wildlife.

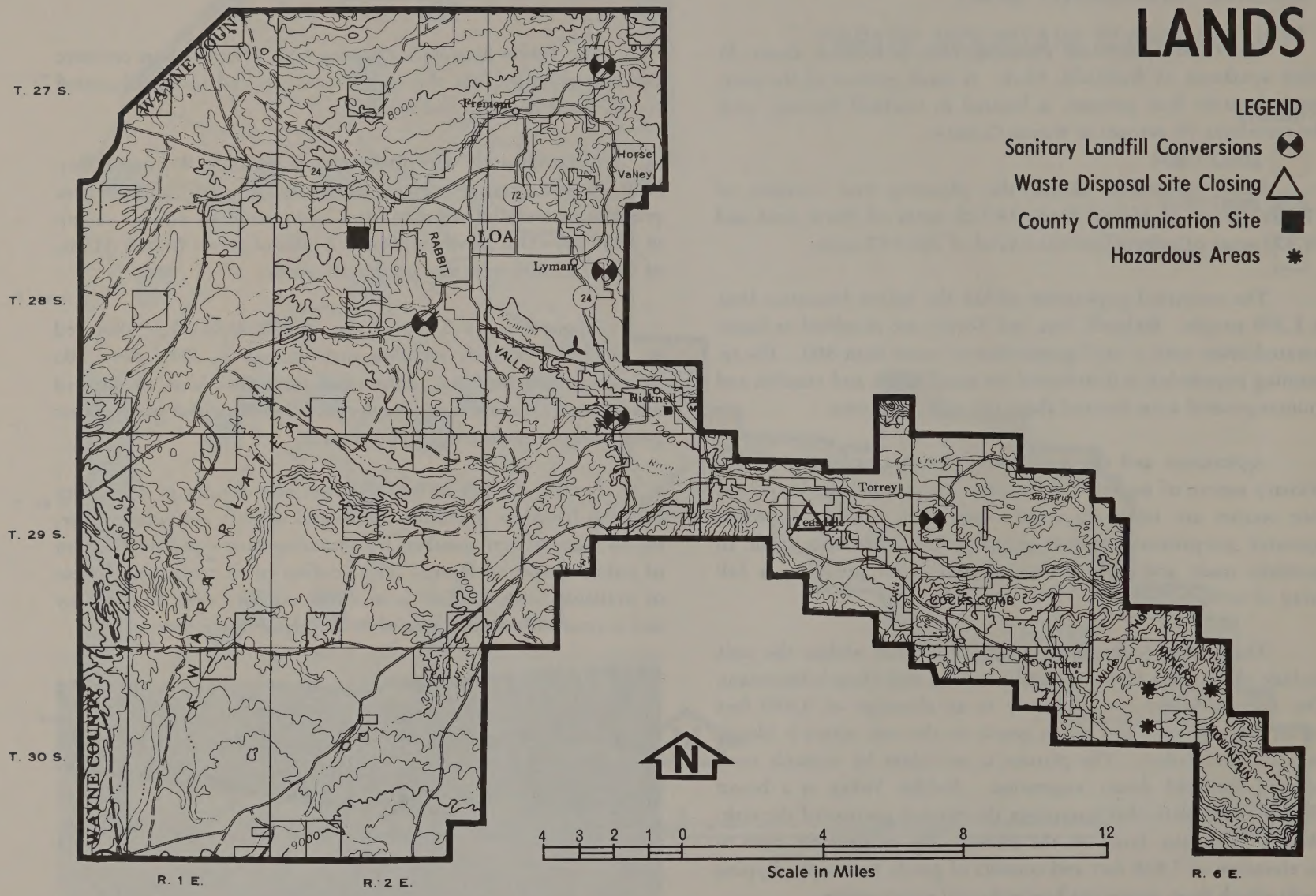
Approximately 100 livestock operators in Wayne County have current grazing preferences in the planning unit. These preferences were adjudicated after completion of a range survey in 1956-57. This survey indicated a total of about 16,000 AUMs, of which 13,000 were allocated to livestock.

Approximately 3,000 of the 16,000 AUMs were allocated to wildlife. Wildlife includes such animals as mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, in addition to threatened and endangered species (e.g., prairie dogs, eagles and falcons) and many other game and non-game birds and mammals.

Forage allocation for the two uses results in a conflict between livestock operators' needs and wildlife enthusiasts desiring to increase herd numbers by obtaining more equal distribution of public rangeland forage. This conflict often results in over use of available forage, which is in direct conflict with BLM policy and is environmentally harmful to rangeland resources.

Overview of Parker Mountain, Wayne County.

LANDS


LEGEND
Sanitary Landfill Conversions
Waste Disposal Site Closing
County Communication Site
Hazardous Areas
T. 27 S.
T. 28 S.
T. 29 S.
T. 30 S.
WAYNE COUNTY
Fremont
Horse Valley
LOA
Lyman
RABBIT VALLEY
Ricknell
Torrey
Teasdale
Grover
CAINEVILLE MESA
WAGON TRAIL MESA
WAYNE COUNTY
N
4 3 2 1 0 4 8 12
Scale in Miles
R. 1 E.
R. 2 E.
R. 6 E.

LANDS

Program Description

The lands program includes classifying land and adjusting tenure to support BLM and other agency programs satisfying State indemnity rights and identifying and reserving lands required to meet State and local government needs. The program assists these government agencies in identifying such lands for urban development, including new communities, public purposes for parks, school sites, rights-of-way and solid waste disposal areas, for residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural purposes and for maintaining a land title record system for BLM and other Federal, State, and public uses.

Resource Description

Private land within the unit's boundary is concentrated among the scattered, arable lands found in the flat areas bordering the Fremont River. The remaining lands, held by the state and federal governments, are generally higher elevation areas surrounding these private holdings. With the exception of an area of consolidated state lands in the extreme southwestern corner of the planning unit, (locally known as the State Land Block), most federal and state lands are intermingled. There is no private land in the vicinity of the consolidated state lands.

All BLM public lands within the Parker Mountain Unit are classified for retention and multiple use management. These lands were segregated from appropriation under the agricultural land laws and from sale under Section 2455 R.S. as amended (43 U.S.C. 1171). The segregation was necessary due to poor soils and a lack of water supplies for irrigation.

Land use within the unit involving public lands include such activities as solid waste disposal sites, transmission and telephone line rights-of-way, and communication and recreation sites.

MULTIPLE USE DECISIONS

1. CONVERT WASTE DISPOSAL SITES TO SANITARY LANDFILLS.

The towns of Fremont, Lyman, Loa, Bicknell and Torrey are currently using public lands for disposal sites. State and federal laws require these sites to be converted to sanitary landfills or closed if unsuited for such conversions.

2. LEGALIZE THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF PUBLIC LAND FOR A COMMUNICATION SITE.

Unauthorized use has occurred for almost ten years. The communication site provides radio and television signals to several communities located in Wayne County.

3. ELIMINATE MINE SAFETY HAZARDS ON MINER'S MOUNTAIN.

An abandoned mine shaft and tunnel pose a serious safety hazard to the public and could cause adverse legal proceedings against the BLM. Claimholders will be contacted to eliminate the hazards prior to the end of fiscal year 1980. If no action has been taken by this time, a validity determination will be made on the claims, the abandoned shafts will be covered, and the mine tunnel will be barricaded.

4. CORRECT THE TOWN OF TEASDALE'S UNAUTHORIZED USE OF PUBLIC LANDS FOR A WASTE DISPOSAL SITE.

State and federal laws require waste disposal sites to be converted to sanitary landfills. Unauthorized use of public lands is contrary to BLM policy and must be corrected. Cooperation with County government is needed to establish a centrally located landfill.

MINERALS

Program Description

The minerals program includes adjudicating mineral patent applications; economic analysis, appraisal, and disposal of minerals by lease, license, and permit; coordinating exploration and mining activities with other land uses; and providing protection and rehabilitation of mined land.

Resource Description

Within the Parker Mountain Planning Unit are 213,850 acres of federally owned and 5,641 acres of partially owned federal mineral estate. All leases or lease applications on public lands within the unit are for oil and gas. Approximately 50 percent of the federal mineral estate in the planning unit is currently under lease or lease application. Almost 25,000 acres have "no surface occupancy" lease stipulations for the protection of other resource values.

Mineral exploration has occurred throughout the planning unit, but the development of mineral commodities from the unit has been confined to those areas east of the Awapa Plateau. Geophysical exploration for oil and gas has been conducted over much of the Awapa Plateau, but no drilling has been done because of the thick deposits of volcanic rocks that cover the Plateau. Sand and gravel deposits are extensive along the floodplains of the Fremont River and its tributaries and at the mouths of the larger drainages that flow from the Awapa Plateau.

The eastern portion of the planning unit is underlain by sedimentary rocks that have provided favorable environments for accumulation of uranium, gypsum, and several metallic minerals. Portions of the area covered by sedimentary rocks are also likely to contain oil and gas deposits.

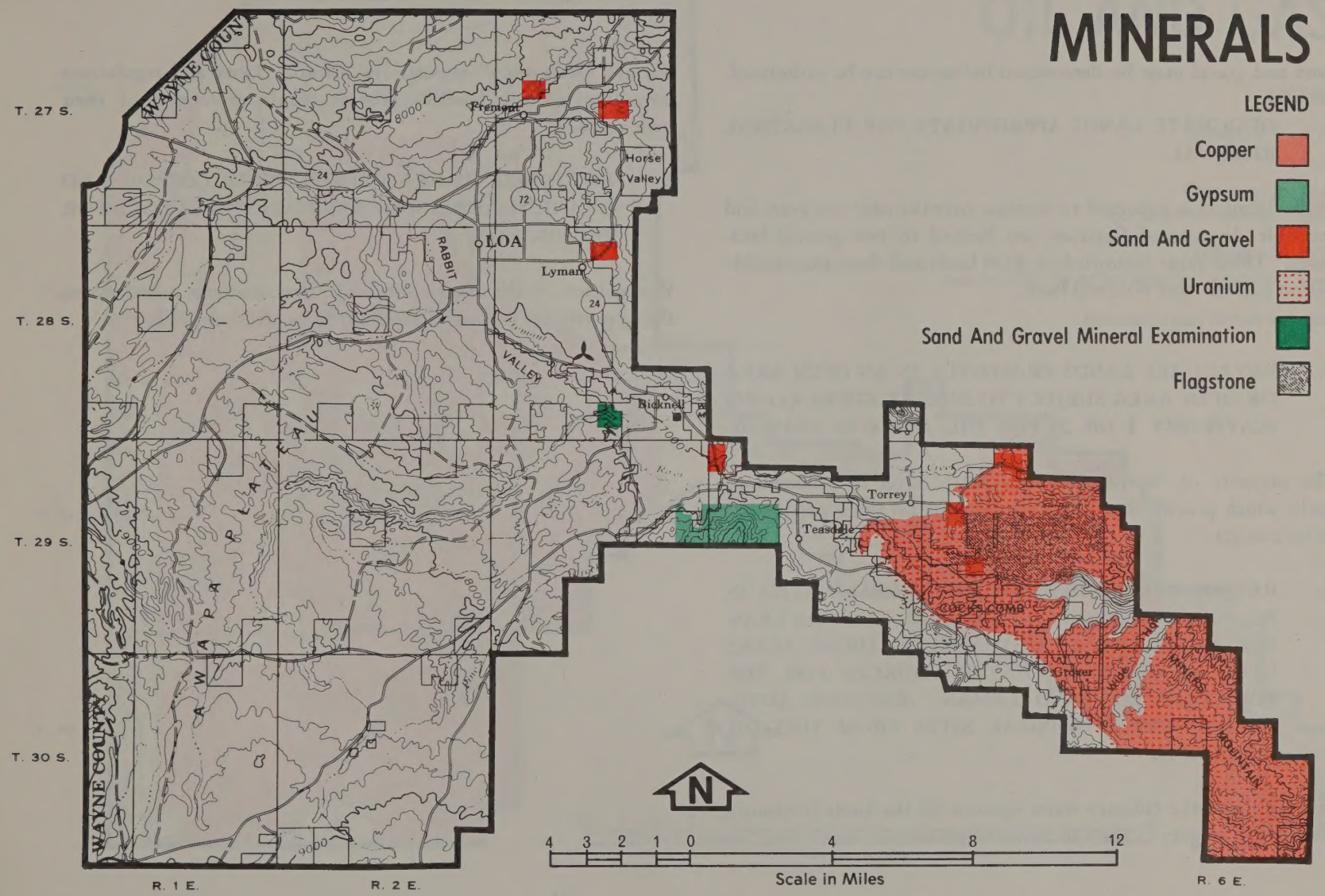
MULTIPLE USE DECISIONS

1. DESIGNATE SEVEN APPROPRIATE AREAS FOR SAND AND GRAVEL PITS.

Continued construction and maintenance of roadways in the planning unit will require a reliable source of sand and gravel.

2. ESTABLISH CLEAR TITLE TO THE SAND AND GRAVEL RESOURCE IN THE NW¼, T. 28 S., R. 3 E., SECTION 34.

The local populace has shown considerable interest for the establishment of a community pit in the area. Clear title to the


MINERALS
LEGEND
Copper
Gypsum
Sand And Gravel
Uranium
Sand And Gravel Mineral Examination
Flagstone
T. 27 S.
T. 28 S.
T. 29 S.
T. 30 S.
WAYNE COUNTY
WAYNE COUNTY
Fremont
Horse Valley
LOA
Lyman
RABBIT VALLEY
Bicknell
Torrey
Teasdale
COLEY'S COMB
Grover
WINTERS MOUNTAIN
WAPA PLATEAU
N
4 3 2 1 0 4 8 12
Scale in Miles
R. 1 E.
R. 2 E.
R. 6 E.

sand and gravel must be determined before use can be authorized.

3. DESIGNATE LANDS APPROPRIATE FOR FLAGSTONE REMOVAL.

Public demand is expected to increase over the next ten years and available deposits of flagstone are limited to two general locations: Those areas identified on BLM lands and those inaccessible within Capitol Reef National Park.

4. RETAIN ALL LANDS PRESENTLY IN AN OPEN AREA OR OPEN AREA SUBJECT TO SPECIAL STIPULATIONS (CATEGORY 1 OR 2) FOR OIL AND GAS LEASING.

The majority of the planning unit is underlain by sedimentary rocks which provide favorable environments for the accumulation of oil and gas.

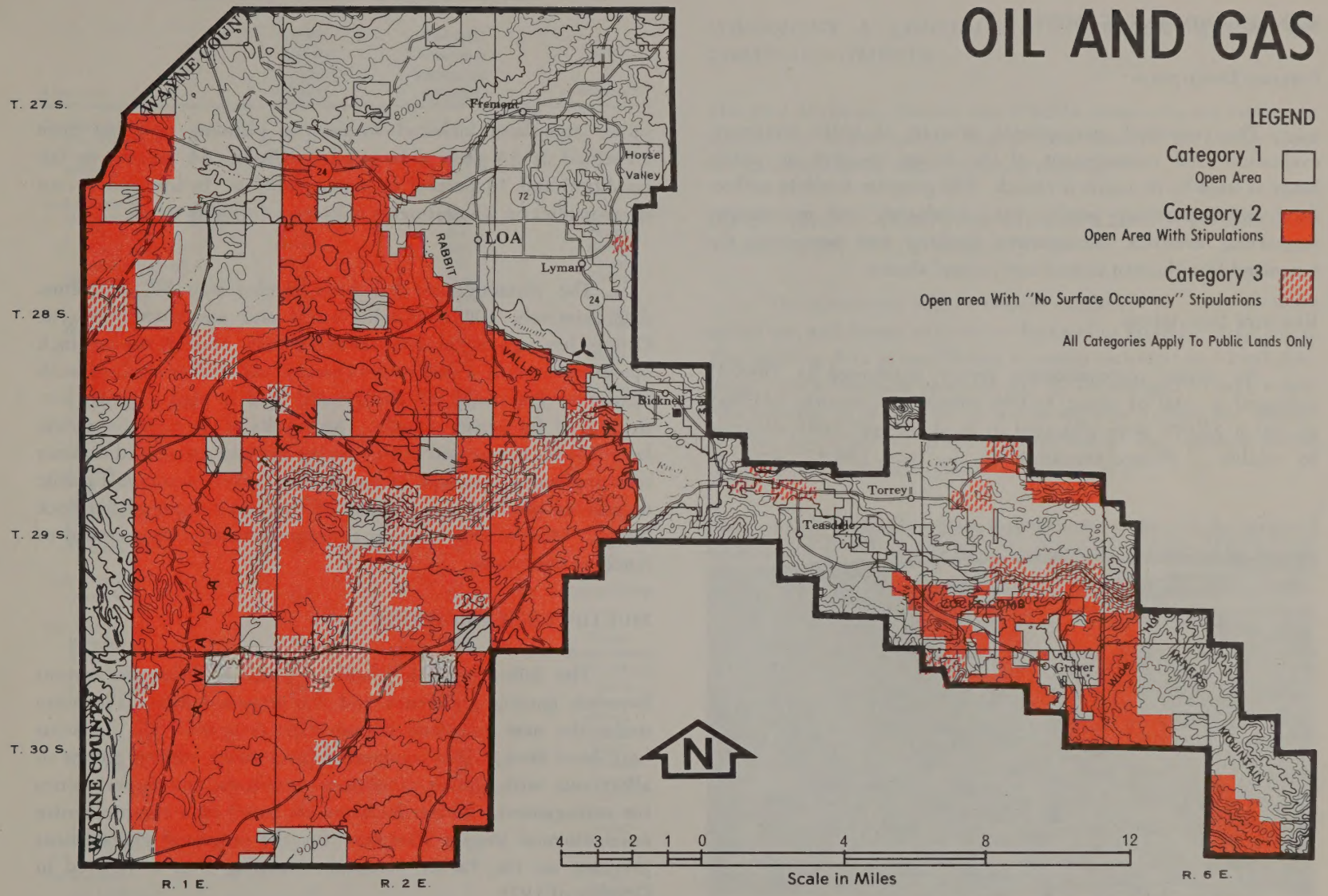
5. RETAIN ALL LANDS PRESENTLY DESIGNATED IN NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY FOR OIL AND GAS LEASING (CATEGORY 3) AND INCLUDE THOSE AREAS USED AS CULINARY WATER SOURCES FOR THE TOWNS OF LOA AND LYMAN. EXCLUDE AUTHORIZED WASTE DISPOSAL SITES FROM THIS DESIGNATION.

In addition to the culinary water sources, all the lands previously placed in Category 3 need to have the protection which the "no Surface Occupancy" stipulations afford. Laws and regulations governing sanitary landfills provide ample protection of their own accord.

6. RECOGNIZE LANDS WITH GYPSUM, COPPER, AND URANIUM AS BEING POTENTIALLY VALUABLE FOR PRODUCTION.

Recognition of the areas containing these minerals would assure the opportunity for consideration in future land use plans.

OIL AND GAS



LEGEND

Category 1
Open Area

Category 2
Open Area With Stipulations

Category 3
Open area With "No Surface Occupancy" Stipulations

All Categories Apply To Public Lands Only

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Program Description

The rangeland management program includes inventory, evaluation, and management of the forage resource on public lands as used by domestic livestock. The program involves authorizing and supervising grazing use, developing and maintaining supporting livestock management facilities and protecting the rangeland from human caused and natural abuses.

Resource Description

An ocular reconnaissance survey conducted in 1956-57 indicated a total of about 16,000 animal unit months (AUMs), of which 13,000 were allocated to livestock and 3,000 allocated to wildlife. Forage condition on the total 198,422 acres of public rangeland included within the planning unit has been identified as 53 percent in good condition, 34 percent in fair condition and 14 percent in poor condition. In addition, recent trend studies on 23 allotments indicate a declining trend.

Typical range in the Parker Mountain Planning Unit.

The planning unit has been divided into 39 allotments. Approximately 100 livestock owners and operators in Wayne County have grazing preferences in the unit. Most of the livestock operators conduct a year-round cow and calf and/or ewe and lamb operation. Practically all the private land is used to grow livestock feed for winter months. This results in the need for public lands (BLM, Forest and State) during the late spring and summer to complement this type of operation. Parker Mountain's public rangelands produce 3.6 percent of the area's required livestock forage. Most of this forage is consumed during a time crucial to ranching operations.

MULTIPLE USE DECISIONS

The following table identifies kinds of livestock, current livestock grazing preference and the proposed forage allocation under the new rangeland management program. The decisions have been divided into component parts which address groups of allotments with similar conditions, problems, and opportunities for management. These decisions are based on a comprehensive environmental impact statement for the rangeland management program on the Parker Mountain Planning Unit completed in October of 1979.

CURRENT AND PLANNED FORAGE ALLOCATION

Allotment	Current Livestock Preference (AUMs)	Planned Livestock Allocation (AUMs)	Kind of Livestock
Component I			
Dez Hickman	0	0	
Tanner	0	0	
Wildlife	0	0	
Component II			
Bicknell Spring	1029	1029	Cattle
Cedar Peak	655	655	Sheep
Hare Lake	545	545	Sheep
Smooth Knoll	1053	1053	Sheep
Bicknell Winter	1306	1306	Cattle
Flat Top	739	739	Sheep
King Sheep	161	161	Sheep
Busenbark	30	30	Sheep
Cyclone Co-op	622	622	Cattle
Co-op	299	299	Sheep
Cyclone	542	542	Sheep
Donkey Hill	25	25	Cattle
Government Creek	91	91	Sheep
Grover	120	120	Cattle
Hector Hollow	138	138	Cattle
Horse Pasture	14	14	Cattle
Lyman	125	125	Cattle
Post Hollow	499	499	Cattle/Sheep
River	75	75	Cattle
Spring Branch	11	11	Cattle
Teasdale Bench	20	20	Sheep
Teasdale Ranch	80	80	Cattle
Component III			
Seven Mile	733	387	Cattle/Sheep
Component IV			
Bicknell	150	150	Cattle
Brian	33	17	Cattle/Sheep
Lime Kiln	354	274	Cattle/Sheep
Loa Winter	254	254	Cattle
Deleeuw	168	168	Sheep
Long Hollow	332	332	Sheep
Terza Flat	321	321	Sheep
Miner's Mountain	211	161	Cattle
Neff Ranch	105	89	Sheep
North Fremont	323	323	Sheep
Rees	32	17	Cattle
Sand Wash	54	22	Sheep
Taylor Farm	18	9	Sheep
Torrey Town	500	500	Cattle
Component V			
Joe Hickman	4	4	Cattle

COMPONENT I - CONTINUE NO LIVESTOCK GRAZING ON THREE ALLOTMENTS.

The Dez Hickman, Tanner and Wildlife allotments are located in critical deer winter range. This decision involves no change from the present practice of no livestock grazing.

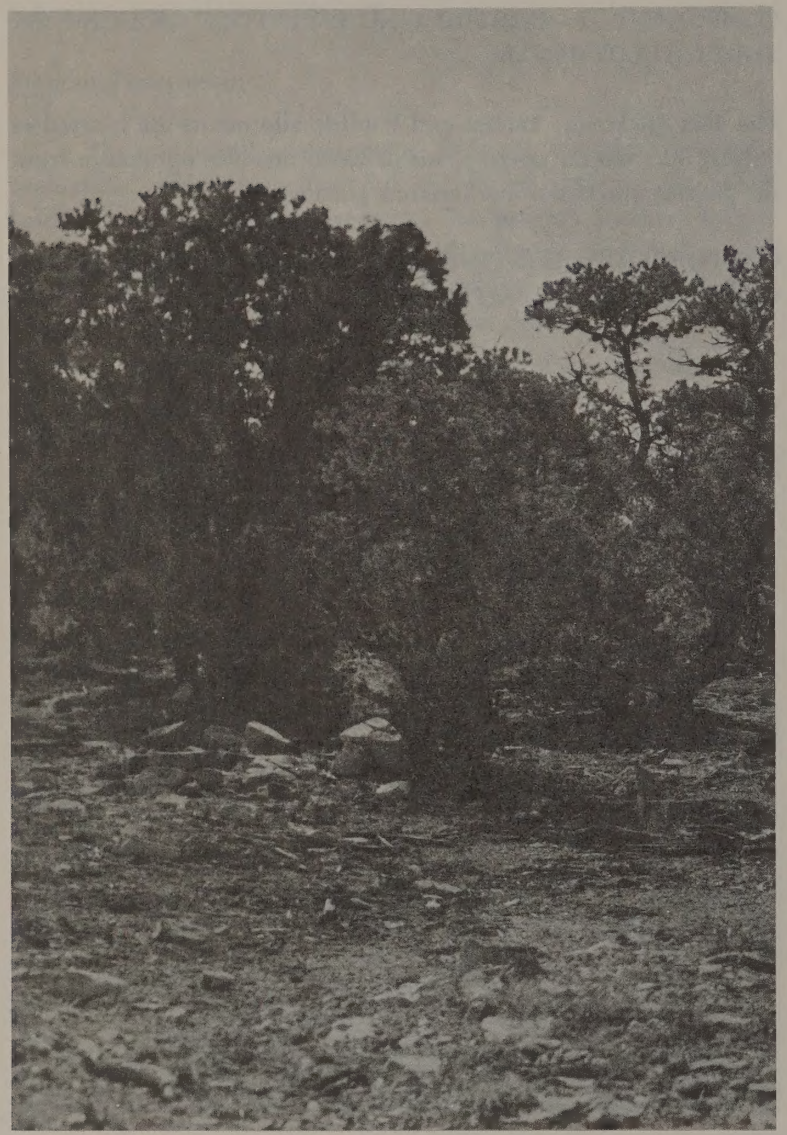
COMPONENT II - CONTINUE WITH CONTINUOUS SEASONAL GRAZING ON 22 ALLOTMENTS.

The allotments will be closely monitored to obtain accurate actual use and forage utilization data and to establish range trend. The existing data is insufficient to stand technical and legal challenge. Each livestock operator will be encouraged to take voluntary non-use as needed so as not to increase grazing use beyond existing levels and to provide protection of the resource during the monitoring and data gathering period.

In addition, allotment management plans will be prepared or updated on all allotments. Management facilities will include two new reservoirs and modification to 25 others, four new troughs, six miles of fencing and eight miles of pipeline.

COMPONENT III - IMPLEMENT TWO-PASTURE REST-SEASONAL GRAZING ON THE SEVEN MILE ALLOTMENT.

Implementing a two-pasture grazing system will assure periodic rest from grazing so as to change range condition classes



Pinyon Juniper is a common vegetative type on lower elevations

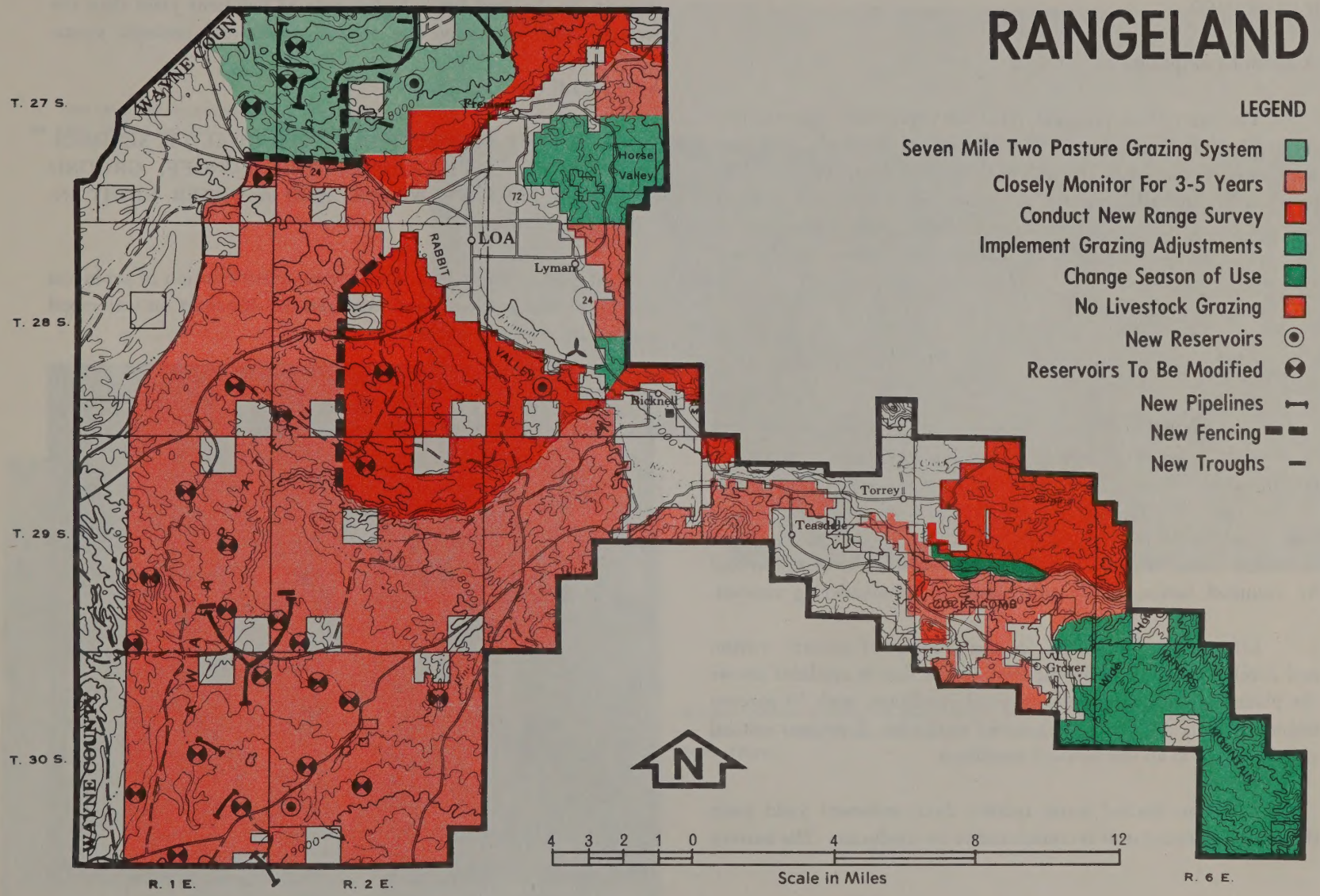
from poor to fair and help increase the amount of available forage over a period of time.

COMPONENT IV - IMPLEMENT GRAZING ADJUSTMENTS ON FOUR ALLOTMENTS AND CONDUCT NEW RANGE SURVEY ON TEN OTHER ALLOTMENTS.

Recent range survey data was collected (1975-76) and indicated a need for forage allocation adjustments on the Lime Kiln, Miner's Mountain, Neff Ranch and Sand Wash allotments. Range condition on the remaining ten allotments is poor and appears to be continuing downward, necessitating the need for some remedial action. Since current data is lacking to make an informed decision, a new range survey is needed.

COMPONENT V - CHANGE THE SEASON OF USE FROM SUMMER TO WINTER/SPRING.

This decision involves only the Joe Hickman allotment. Overgrazing and stream bank damage will be significantly reduced by close monitoring and a change in season of use.


RANGELAND
LEGEND
Seven Mile Two Pasture Grazing System
Closely Monitor For 3-5 Years
Conduct New Range Survey
Implement Grazing Adjustments
Change Season of Use
No Livestock Grazing
New Reservoirs
Reservoirs To Be Modified
New Pipelines
New Fencing
New Troughs
T. 27 S.
T. 28 S.
T. 29 S.
T. 30 S.
WAYNE COUNTY
Fremont
Horse Valley
LOA
Lyman
RABBIT VALLEY
Bicknell
Torrey
Teasdale
Grover
THOUSAND LAKE MOUNTAIN
N
4 3 2 1 0 4 8 12
Scale in Miles
R. 1 E.
R. 2 E.
R. 6 E.

WATERSHED

Program Description

The watershed program includes vegetation manipulation through mechanical, chemical, or biological methods, and construction of water development and control structures. The program is directed toward stabilization of soil resources, maintenance or restoration of soil productivity, protection and enhancement of water yield and quality, and reduction of flood and sediment damage.

Resource Description

The Parker Mountain Planning Unit is divided into eight watersheds. Seven principal creeks and five minor drainages contribute water from these watersheds to the valley floor. Most of the tributaries to the Fremont River are intermittent streams which yield water during periods of spring snowmelt and summer thunderstorms. Stream channels within the unit are characterized by rounded banks, gentle side slopes and meandering courses.

Information is limited for the amount of natural erosion and accelerated erosion on the unit. Data that is available shows the planning unit as generally in good condition, with 35 percent stable, 48 percent slight, 13 percent moderate, 2 percent critical and 2 percent in an unclassified condition.

Based on limited water quality data, sediment yield from the entire planning unit is considered to be moderate. The eastern portion of the unit has a higher rate of sediment yield than the western half, probably due to soil types and geologic strata.

MULTIPLE USE DECISION

1. INITIATE STUDIES FOR WATER QUALITY, SEDIMENTATION, INFILTRATION AND RUNOFF, GROUND AND SURFACE WATER, AND A WATER RIGHT INVENTORY.

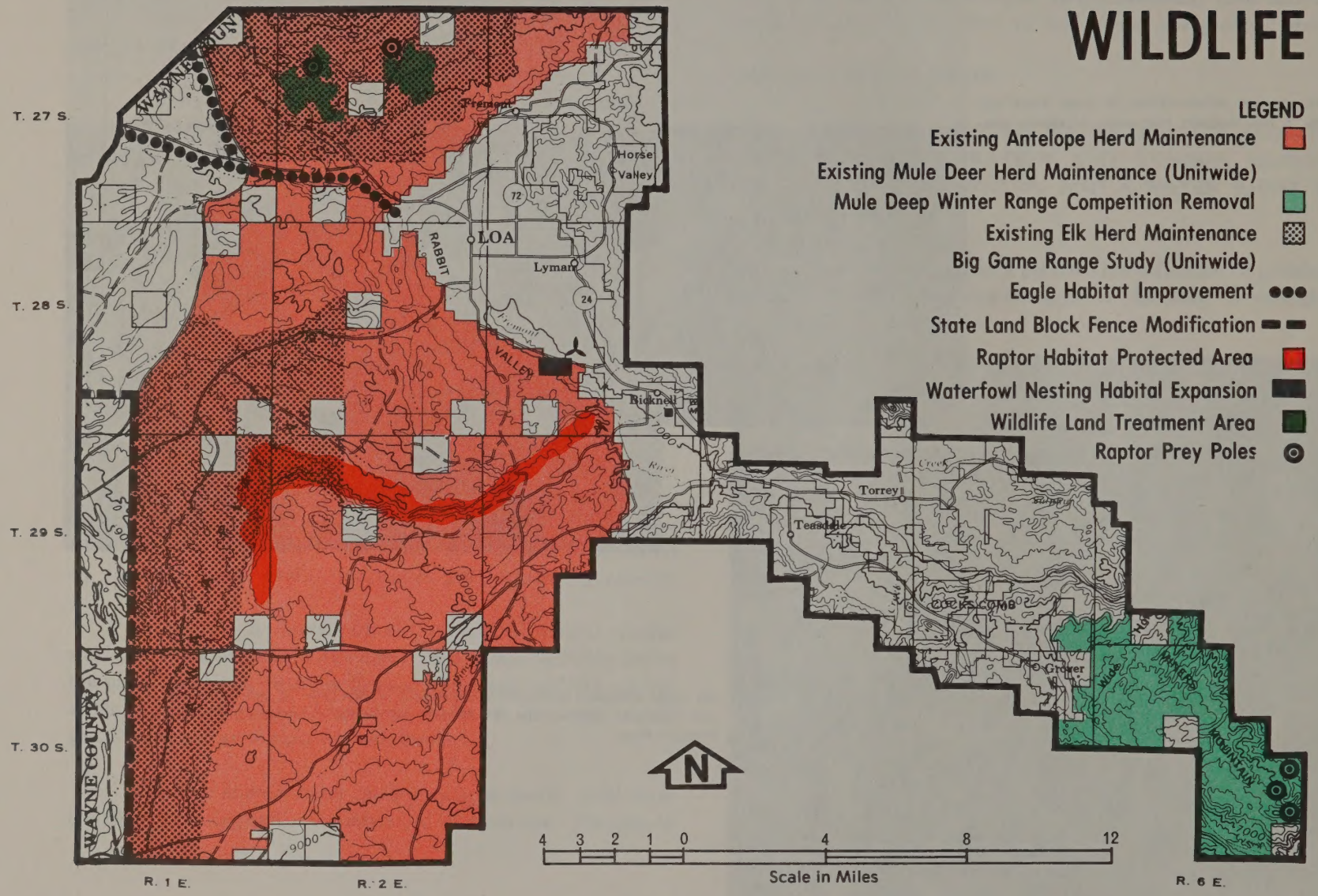
Lack of quality watershed data prevents identification of problems and opportunities for sound management decisions on watershed maintenance improvements.

Watershed studies will be conducted at Pine Creek and similar areas.

A more accurate determination of water yield will be made in this typically high water producing area.

On lower elevations within the planning unit, a good cover of Indian ricegrass and shad-scale protects the soil surface and reduces sediment yield to the Fremont River.

WILDLIFE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R. 1 E.
R. 2 E.
R. 6 E.
WAYNE COUNTY
WAYNE COUNTY
Fremont
Horse Valley
LOA
Lyman
RABBIT
VALLEY
Bicknell
Torrey
Teasdale
Grover
WILLIS
MOUNTAIN
72
24
N
4 3 2 1 0 4 8 12
Scale in Miles
LEGEND
Existing Antelope Herd Maintenance
Existing Mule Deer Herd Maintenance (Unitwide)
Mule Deep Winter Range Competition Removal
Existing Elk Herd Maintenance
Big Game Range Study (Unitwide)
Eagle Habitat Improvement
State Land Block Fence Modification
Raptor Habitat Protected Area
Waterfowl Nesting Habital Expansion
Wildlife Land Treatment Area
Raptor Prey Poles

WILDLIFE

Program Description

The wildlife program is primarily concerned with the allocation of forage to big game. It also includes the protection and use of small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, and invertebrates through the enhancement and maintenance of their habitat components. This program is closely coordinated with the Utah State Division of Wildlife Resources.

Resource Description

The Parker Mountain Planning Unit lends itself to a diverse group of wildlife inhabitants. Present mule deer population estimates include 109 deer in the summer and 1,100 in the winter. Elk are also present within the unit on a much smaller scale, with use mainly limited to winter. Pronghorn antelope herds have grown from 129 animals in 1965 to the present herd size of approximately 750 animals. This prolific antelope herd is used by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources as a "reservoir" from which they remove animals for transplanting to other areas of the state.

Three officially listed threatened and endangered species also inhabit the unit. The bald eagle is a winter resident and generally inhabits the area from November through late March or early April. The American peregrine falcon has also been sighted in the unit. The Utah prairie dog is one of the main residents of the unit, with approximately 24 active towns located on the Awapa Plateau. Utah prairie dog numbers have been increasing in the past but recent drought conditions have curtailed this trend.

The endangered Utah Prairie Dog inhabits the Awapa Plateau.

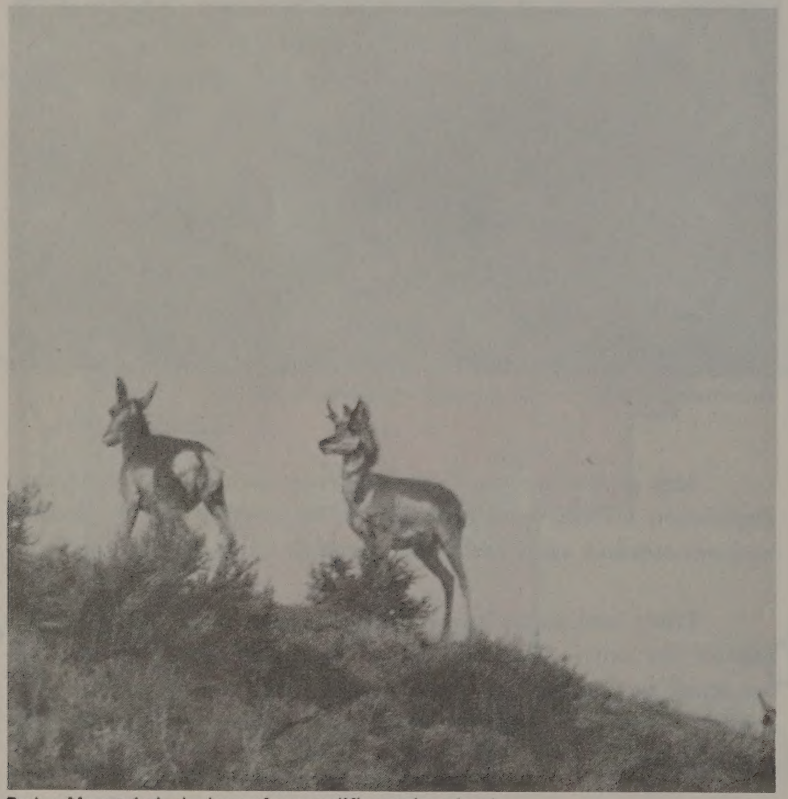
Sage grouse are the most important game birds in the unit. Population increases are probably limited by the lack of riparian and wet meadow areas within the planning unit.

Trout and many game and non-game birds and mammals inhabit the unit. Such species as black bear and mountain lion are small in numbers and have a static population trend. Jackrabbits, cottontail rabbits, small carnivores, and aquatic fur-

bearers are other typical mammals in the area. Mourning doves, chukar partridge, and blue grouse are other common upland game bird species.

MULTIPLE USE DECISIONS

The following table identifies the kind of wildlife, current forage allocation and the proposed forage allocation under the new plan:



Parker Mountain is the home for a prolific antelope herd.

CURRENT AND PLANNED FORAGE ALLOCATION

Allotments	Current Wildlife Allocation (AUMs)	Planned Wildlife Allocation (AUMs)	Kind of Wildlife
Dez Hickman	5	6	Deer
Wildlife	4	4	Deer
Cedar Peak	70	70	Antelope, Elk, Deer
Hare Lake	59	59	Antelope, Deer
Smooth Knoll	99	99	Antelope, Deer
Flat Top	132	132	Antelope, Deer
King Sheep	94	94	Antelope, Deer
Busenbark	6	6	Deer
Co-op	98	98	Antelope, Elk, Deer
Cyclone	143	143	Antelope, Elk, Deer
Donkey Hill	17	17	Deer
Government Creek	47	47	Deer
Grover	24	24	Deer
Hector Hollow	14	14	Deer
Horse Pasture	17	17	Deer
Lyman	14	14	Deer
Post Hollow	132	132	Antelope, Deer
River	24	24	Deer
Spring Branch	8	8	Deer
Teasdale Bench	17	17	Deer
Teasdale Ranch	11	11	Deer
Brian	9	9	Deer
Rees	14	4	Deer
Seven Mile	127	127	Antelope, Elk, Deer
Tanner	9	9	Deer
Taylor Farm	6	6	Deer
Bicknell	11	11	Deer
Lime Kiln	14	58	Deer
Deleeuw	81	81	Antelope, Deer
Long Hollow	105	105	Antelope, Deer
Terza Flat	106	106	Antelope, Deer
Miner's Mountain	118	159	Deer
Neff Ranch	14	91	Deer
North Fremont	66	66	Antelope, Deer
Sand Wash	9	18	Deer
Torrey Town	47	47	Deer
Joe Hickman	8	8	Deer

1. PROVIDE PREY POLES FOR RAPTORS, ESPECIALLY BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLES, TO IMPROVE THEIR HUNTING AND NESTING OPPORTUNITIES.

Agreements have been reached with Garkane Power Company to remove a power line between Windy Peak and Dry Valley and the Fishlake Spur and to leave every fourth pole standing. Currently, perches are nonexistent in this area.

2. ERECT THREE PREY POLES IN THE MINER'S MOUNTAIN CHAINING AND TWO POLES IN THE SEVEN MILE TREATMENT AREAS.

There are presently no prey poles in these areas and these poles are expected to increase the raptors' ability to catch the small mammals found in the area.

3. MAINTAIN THE BIG HOLLOW AREA IN A NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY STATUS UNTIL INVENTORIES DETERMINE THE TRUE ECOLOGICAL VALUE TO RAPTORS.

Of all human activities, oil and gas explorations are most likely to cause disturbances to endangered and sensitive species.

4. MODIFY THE STATE LAND BLOCK FENCE TO ALLOW ANTELOPE MOVEMENT IF PERMISSION IS GRANTED BY THE STATE LAND BOARD

Cooperation is needed with the State Land Board to modify a five strand barb wire sheep-tight fence which precludes the use of high quality summer range by antelope.

5. PROVIDE FORAGE AND WATER TO MAINTAIN 750 HEAD OF ANTELOPE.

This Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has indicated the 750 head represent both the present and the objective for future numbers for the Parker Mountain antelope herd.

6. PROVIDE LAND TREATMENT ON 4,800 ACRES OF THE SEVEN MILE ALLOTMENT.

Land treatment is expected to increase forage availability for both wildlife and livestock. The treatment is also expected to improve sage grouse habitat through provision of more forbs and increased diversity of vegetation in the habitat.

7. ALLOCATE 1,539 AUMs TO MAINTAIN THE MULE DEER HERDS INHABITING THE UNIT.

Current forage is believed to exist to meet present mule deer needs. Through the monitoring program described under the rangeland section and new surveys expected to be completed on ten allotments, adjustments will be determined as data is collected.

8. MEET FUTURE DEMANDS OF MULE DEER AS FORAGE BECOMES AVAILABLE.

Meeting future forage demands is dependent upon successful management programs that increase forage availability.

9. PROVIDE 84 AUMs TO MAINTAIN ELK USE WITHIN THE PLANNING UNIT.

Present elk herd populations are not expected to significantly fluctuate in the future.

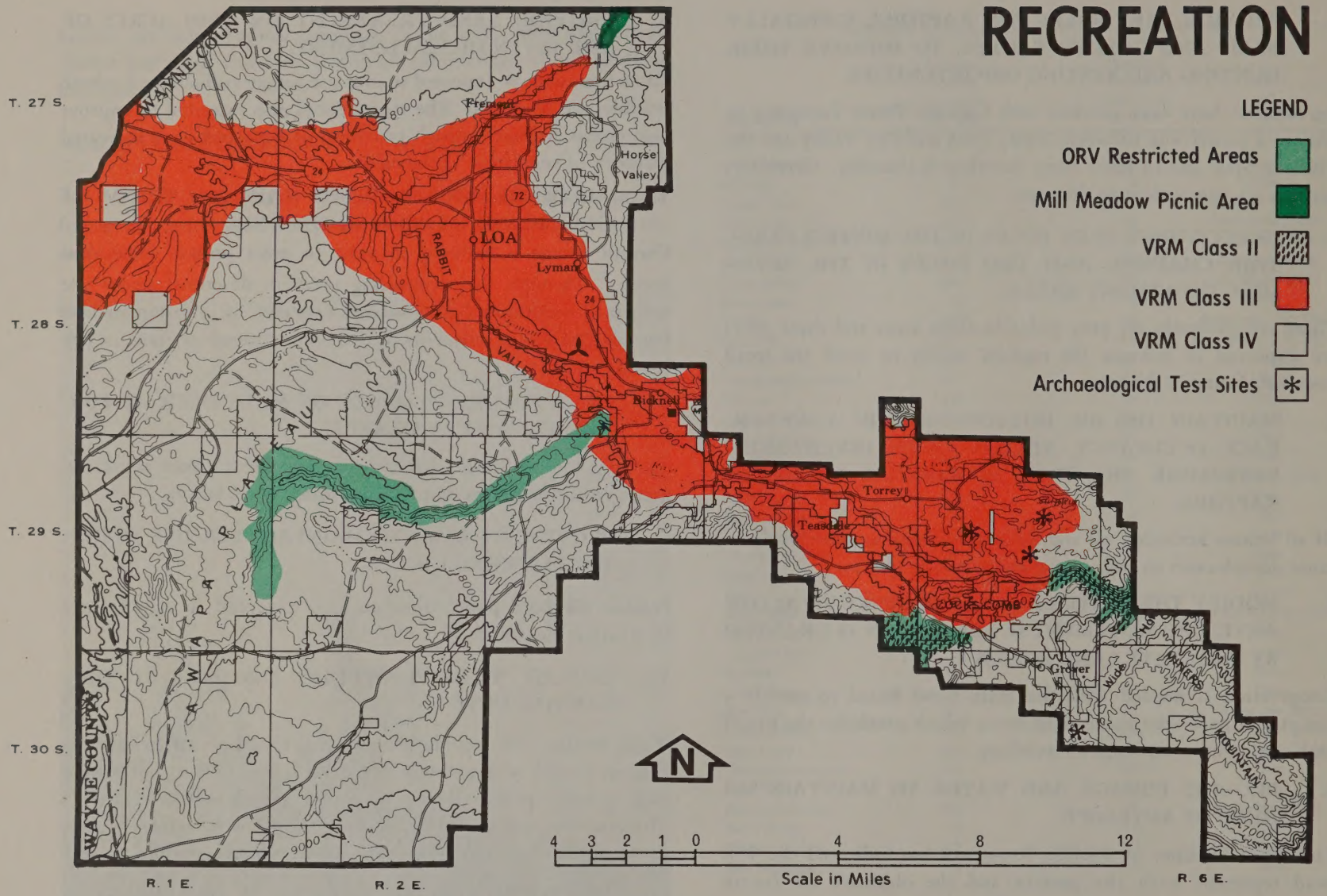
10. CONDUCT WILDLIFE STUDIES THROUGHOUT THE PLANNING UNIT.

These studies will include browse, pellet, and photo trend transects on crucial winter ranges and monitoring studies to determine sage grouse, prairie dogs and raptor populations and trends. These studies will provide needed data to allow for informed management decisions for habitat and animal numbers within the unit.

11. FENCE THE WETLAND IN T 28 S., R. 3 E. SECTION 20.

Fencing will control livestock grazing and improve habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

RECREATION


LEGEND
ORV Restricted Areas
Mill Meadow Picnic Area
VRM Class II
VRM Class III
VRM Class IV
Archaeological Test Sites
T. 27 S.
T. 28 S.
T. 29 S.
T. 30 S.
WAYNE COUNTY
Fremont
Horse Valley
LOA
Lyman
RABBIT VALLEY
Bicknell
Torrey
Teasdale
Cocks Comb
Grover
WATERPOCKET FOLD
KOUNTAIN
WAYNE COUNTY
AWAPA PLATEAU
N
4 3 2 1 0 4 8 12
Scale in Miles
R. 1 E.
R. 2 E.
R. 6 E.

RECREATION

Program Description

The recreation program includes the inventory, identification and preservation of natural, historic, archaeological and cultural values; the construction, operation and maintenance of recreation facilities; the management of visitors; and the management control of recreation activities.

Resource Description

The Parker Mountain Planning Unit provides various opportunities for recreation activities. Deer, antelope, elk and sage grouse hunting are popular attractions. An estimated 14,848 hunter days annually are provided by the unit.

Trout fishing occurs along the Fremont River, Road Creek, Fish Creek, Riley Creek, Pine Creek and at Mill Meadow Reservoir. The planning unit provides an estimated 3,000 fisherman days annually.

The planning unit also contains two distinctive types of landscape character. The Awapa Plateau in the western portion of the unit is characterized by gently rolling hills colored by the muted grays and greens of desert shrubs. In the eastern portion of the unit, land forms consist of steep red rock canyons carved by the Fremont River and its tributaries. Both offer stark differences to the travelers passing through, or to those using the unit for some recreational purpose.

In addition to the scenic attractions, other distinctive features are available to the recreationist. Fish Creek Cove, Cock's Comb, Fremont River Gorge, Big Hollow Canyon, Utah prairie dog colonies, plus off-road vehicle areas are just some of the opportunities provided within the planning unit's boundary.

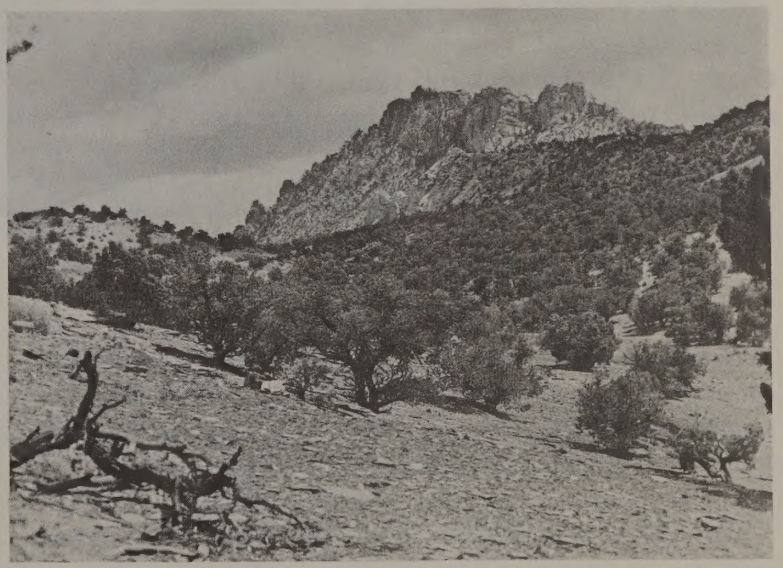
MULTIPLE USE DECISIONS

1. DESIGNATE ALL PUBLIC LANDS IN THE PLANNING UNIT OPEN TO OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USE EXCEPT THE FREMONT RIVER GORGE, FISH CREEK COVE AND BIG HOLLOW CANYON.

Closing these three areas to ORV use will enhance and protect the natural values which currently exist.

2. PROVIDE TRASH CONTAINERS AT MILL MEADOW RESERVOIR IF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT CAN BE OBTAINED WITH THE FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST FOR REGULAR COLLECTION OF REFUSE.

Bureau personnel are not regularly available for garbage collec-



The Scenic Cockscomb Area.

tion; however, National Forest collection routes have been established and are made on a regular basis.

3. STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF A FOOT TRAIL ROUTE ACROSS THE WEST END OF COCK'S COMB AS AN ACCESS TO FISH CREEK COVE. DETERMINE IF USER DEMAND WILL JUSTIFY CONSTRUCTION EXPENSE.

The need for access into Fish Creek Cove may not require a developed access route. This will be determined through a proposed feasibility study.

4. MANAGE THE FREMONT RIVER GORGE AND FISH CREEK COVE TO ASSURE NO FUTURE MANAGEMENT ACTION RESULTS IN EVIDENT CHANGES IN LINE, FORM, COLOR, OR TEXTURE AS REQUIRED BY THE AREAS' VISUAL RESOURCE CLASS II DESIGNATIONS.

Certain land having high scenic value will be protected in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

5. ALLOW MANAGEMENT ACTIONS TO OCCUR WITHIN THE REMAINDER OF THE PLANNING UNIT (THESE ARE IDENTIFIED AS VISUAL RESOURCE CLASS III AND IV AREAS).

Actions within the VRM Class III and IV designations will be considered and weighed carefully on a case by case basis to determine if the action would exceed allowable changes in line, form, color, or texture as required by these designations.

6. TEST DESIGNATED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES TO DETERMINE THEIR SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL VALUE.

The Bureau has the responsibility to protect and manage cultural sites. Testing is needed to determine the potential for inclusion in the National Historic Register and also to determine future management actions.

Fremont River Gorge will be closed to off-road vehicles.

FOREST PRODUCTS

Program Description

The forestry program includes inventory, evaluation, and management of the forest resources on the public lands.

Resource Description

The predominant tree species in the Parker Mountain Planning Unit are the double-needle pinyon pine and the Utah juniper. Ponderosa pine also occurs scattered throughout the larger drainages on Miner's Mountain. Productive forest land (potential to produce at least 20 cubic feet per acre per year) occurs along the eastern border of the planning unit on Miner's Mountain. Approximately 25,000 acres could be identified as productive within this area. The remaining portion of the unit is considered nonproductive forest land with occasional wooded areas scattered throughout.

Timbered Knoll, Awapa Plateau

MULTIPLE USE DECISION

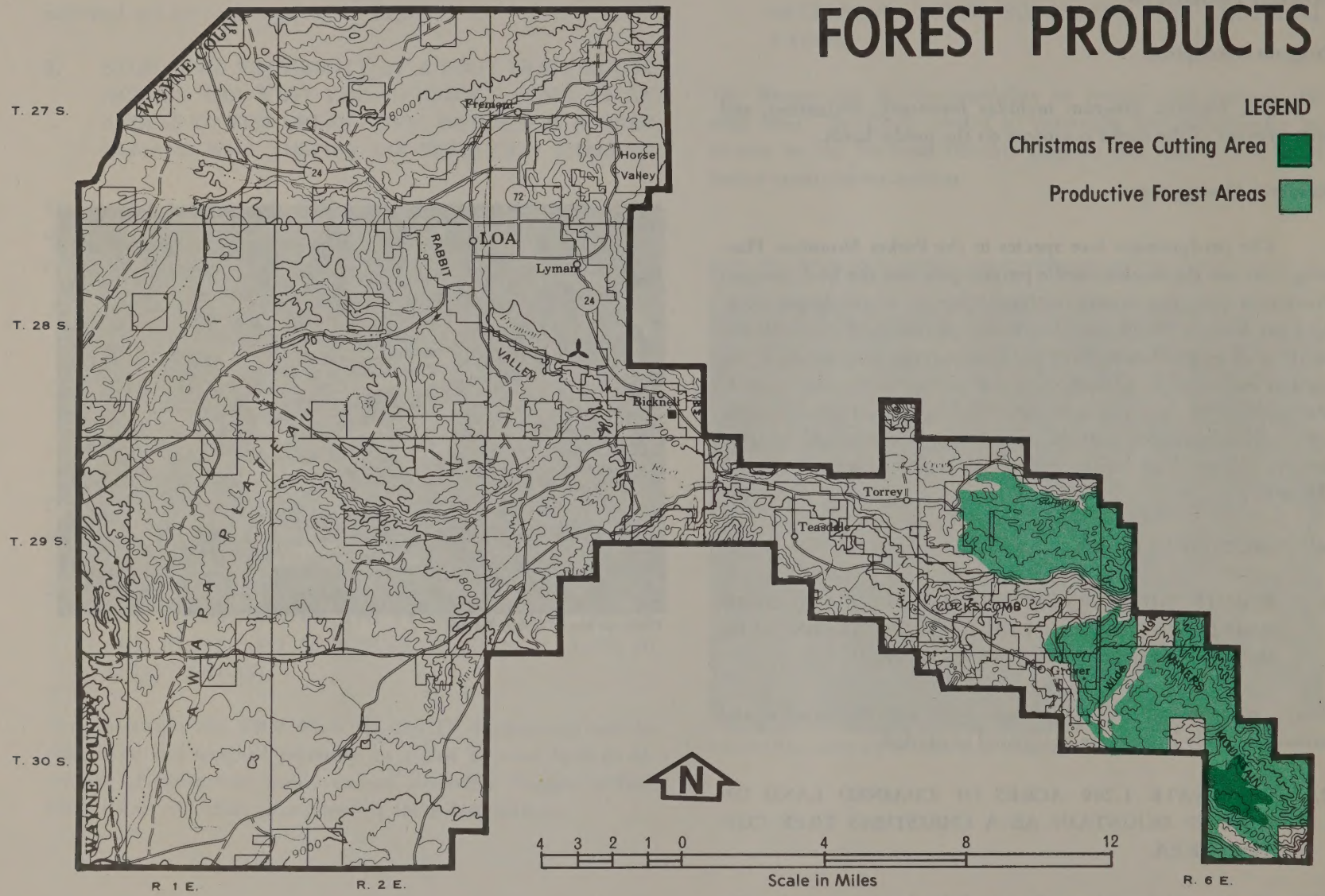
1. PERMIT THE HARVESTING OF GREEN AND DEAD AND DOWN TIMBER IN DESIGNATED AREAS TO BE DETERMINED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.

Better control can be maintained both administratively and environmentally if areas are designated as needed.

2. DESIGNATE 1,200 ACRES OF CHAINED LAND ON MINER'S MOUNTAIN AS A CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING AREA.

Although demand for this product is slight, local interest justifies the designation of an area.

FOREST PRODUCTS



CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

Lands

Lands and reality decisions would benefit the environment but would be expensive to implement and some may cause some short-term resentment of some local residents. Most decisions are formulated to encourage orderly growth which protects local residents and the resources. Sanitary landfill conversions and elimination of unauthorized use of public lands are examples of these decisions.

Minerals

Minerals decisions would result in both beneficial and adverse impacts. Community sand and gravel pits, designation of flagstone removal areas, and identification of areas with potentially valuable minerals are beneficial to the public without negatively impacting the various resources.

On the other hand, designating certain lands as open to oil and gas leasing with a "no surface occupancy" stipulation (Category 3) protects the various resources but removes approximately eight percent of the planning unit from possible discoveries which could enhance the socio-economic conditions of local residents and aid the national energy program.

Forest Products

Forestry decisions would cause very little impact and result in only minor surface disturbance, minimal visual disruption, and temporary disturbance to wildlife.

Watershed

There would be no impacts from the decision to conduct watershed studies. Long-term benefits will result as future watershed decisions can be determined from reliable data.

Rangeland

Rangeland decisions have been made to maximize use of forage on public lands while protecting the resource from adverse impacts. Data gaps will be eliminated through a program to obtain accurate actual use and forage utilization data and to establish range trend to better manage range resources.

Some negative impacts could result to the livestock operators if new range surveys indicate over allocation of the forage. Some of the impact will be negated by the rangeland development program which is designed to increase forage through land treatment and additional management facilities. Both livestock and wildlife will benefit in the long-term from improvements and adjustments.

Wildlife

Wildlife decisions would benefit habitat and minimize adverse impacts on wildlife species. They assure allocation of forage resources as well as protection and improvement of wildlife habitat such as raptor and waterfowl feeding and nesting areas, big game winter ranges and continued protection of the endangered Utah prairie dog.

Recommendations specifically consider vegetative cover, critical water sources, fence modification for wildlife movement and management of livestock as it affects wildlife habitat. Wildlife would be benefited by restriction of oil and gas exploration in critical wildlife habitat.

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Recreation

Beneficial impacts are expected from the decisions to maintain aesthetic quality, provide picnic facilities at Mill Meadow reservoir; and provide protection for Big Hollow Canyon, Fremont River Gorge, and Fish Creek Cove.

Minor negative impacts will result to off-road vehicle users from the closure of three areas.

ACTION BEYOND THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN

This plan will be followed by on-the-ground action plans. Some decisions in the plan may require more detailed planning prior to implementation.

Development projects are subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. An environmental assessment will be prepared for each action whether it is initiated by industry or BLM, unless it was adequately covered in the Parker Mountain Environmental Impact Statement. If the impacts are unacceptable, the proposed action may be modified or rejected.

The Management Framework Plan decisions will be used in programming and budgeting for annual work plan. Some on-the-ground actions are contingent upon funding by Congress, it may be some time before some of these decisions are implemented.

In response to changing resource conditions and management requirements, the Parker Mountain plan will be amended and management decisions will be revised as new information becomes available. Regulations require that the public have opportunities for review and input into the planning process when major revisions are proposed.

INTERRELATIONSHIPS AND CONSULTATION

The Parker Mountain plan was coordinated with several other plans and agencies. Local government officials were contacted as the plan was developed and informed of the results. The Parker Mountain plan meets local zoning requirements. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources was consulted in determining existing wildlife numbers, areas and seasons-of-use, and long-term projections. The Fishlake National Forest was consulted in design and implementation of certain rangeland management plans. As the Dixie National Forest provides at least 50 percent of the antelope summer range, personnel from this forest were consulted before deciding on management goals for antelope. In addition, each livestock livestock operator has been, or will be, consulted prior to implementation of grazing proposals.

GLOSSARY

As in most systems, BLM's Planning System has its own "language". To help you understand some of the terms used in this procedure, a glossary is included for reference:

Allotment Management Plan (AMP) – A detailed plan for intensively managing and improving a specific grazing allotment.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – A document analyzing the environmental impact of proposed or recommended actions and its alternatives on the human environment.

Habitat Management Plan (HMP) – A detailed plan to develop and manage a specific area for increased forage production or habitat conditions for aquatic or terrestrial wildlife.

Management Framework Plan (MFP) – A planning decision document which establishes, for a given planning area, land use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple use, and management objectives to be achieved for each class of land use or protection. It is the Bureau's Land Use Plan. It is prepared in three steps: Step One – Resource Recommendations; Step Two – Impact Analysis and Alternative Development; and Step Three – Decision Making.

Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) – Any vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain. Excludes registered motorboats, emergency and government vehicles.

Planning Unit – A portion of the Richfield District used for assembling resource inventory data and developing land use plans. For each planning unit the District Manager prepared a Unit Resource Analysis and a Management Framework Plan.

Public Lands – Public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The BLM also manages a federal mineral estate where stewardship is limited to subsurface portions of the land.

Unit Resource Analysis (URA) – A basic source of information on the land amd its resources used as one of the foundations of the MFP. It consists of resource maps, physical profile and resource inventory summaries. It also evaluates resource potential and capability of the land to fill the public's need for lands, minerals, recreation, wildlife, watershed, forest products, and range management.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibility for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources, Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources."

The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States - now and in the future.

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